(a) whether Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome found in the fish species in lakes of central Kerala has been brought under control; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Government of Kerala have informed that the fish epidemic is not spreading any more. However, Government have issued guidelines to take various measures to contain this disease, like;

i) Treatment of the affected manageable water areas with lime and salt;

ii) Treatment of affected fish with potassium permagnate; and

iii) To maintain hygienic condition in open waters.

Foodgrains Production

1513. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether per hectare productivity of foodgrains in Punjab is much higher than national average; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The yield rate of total foodgrains in Punjab during 1990-91 was 3390 Kgs. per hectare as against the All India average yield rate of 1382 Kgs. per hectare.

The higher per bectare productivity of foodgrains in Punjab may be attributed to higher proportion of irrigated area, greater diffusion of modern technology of high yielding varieties, higher fertilizer consumption per unit of area, better infrastructure and favorable agro-climatic conditions.

Regional Research Institute for Black Goat

1514. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for setting up of a Regional Research Institute for black goat in the district of Midnapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C.LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The issue of setting up of regional stations was examined in general by the ICAR Review Committee, which was headed by Dr. G.V.K. Rao, former Member of the Planning Commission. This Committee has advised against setting up of new regional stations and has, instead, suggested that work of the regional importance may in future be done by the State Agricultural Universities. Since this recommendation has been accepted by the ICAR, the proposal to establish the Eastern Regional Research Centre of Central Institute for Research on Goats at Midnapore, West Bengal has not been accepted. Instead ICAR has instructed the Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya to take up research on Goats.